

1 What is claimed is:

2 1. A single use lancet device comprising:  
3 a housing, said housing including an at least partially  
4 open interior and an access opening defined therein;  
5 a lancet, said lancet including a body and a piercing tip;  
6 said lancet disposed in said open interior of said housing  
7 and structured to move at least between a cocked orientation and  
8 a piercing orientation;

9 a driving assembly structured to move said lancet at least  
temporarily into said piercing orientation; and

10 a restrictor assembly structured to substantially prevent  
11 said lancet from moving into said cocked orientation after said  
12 lancet has moved at least temporarily into said piercing  
13 orientation.

14 2. A single use lancet as recited in claim 1 wherein said  
15 driving assembly includes a biasing element operatively disposed  
16 between said lancet and said housing.

17 3. A single use lancet as recited in claim 2 wherein said  
18 biasing element comprises a spring.

19 4. A single use lancet as recited in claim 1 further  
20 comprising an actuation assembly structured to release said  
21 lancet from said cocked orientation.  
22

23 5. A single use lancet as recited in claim 4 wherein said  
24 actuation assembly comprises a button structured to at least  
25 temporarily protrude from said housing when said lancet is

1 disposed in said cocked orientation.

2 6. A single use lancet as recited in claim 5 wherein said  
3 button is secured to said lancet and is structured to abut said  
4 housing when protruding therethrough so as to retain said lancet  
5 in said cocked orientation until disengaged from said abutting  
6 engagement.

7 7. A single use lancet as recited in claim 6 wherein said  
8 button is structured to be at least temporarily concealed by  
9 said housing after said lancet has moved out of said cocked  
orientation.

8 8. A single use lancet as recited in claim 1 wherein said  
restrictor assembly comprises and abutment structure  
cooperatively disposed between said housing and said lancet and  
structured to prevent said lancet from moving into said cocked  
orientation after movement into said piercing orientation.

9 9. A single use lancet as recited in claim 8 wherein said  
abutment structure comprises a shoulder element and a restrictor  
panel, said restrictor panel and said shoulder element  
structured to pass one another upon said lancet moving from said  
10 cocked orientation to said piercing orientation, and to abut one  
11 another upon attempted movement of said lancet into said cocked  
12 orientation after movement into said piercing orientation.

13 10. A single use lancet as recited in claim 9 wherein said  
14 shoulder element includes a sloped, at least partially biased  
15 configuration structured to at least partially retract to

1 facilitate passage of said restrictor panel and said shoulder  
2 element past one another in a first direction corresponding  
3 movement of said lancet from said cocked orientation to said  
4 piercing orientation, and to expand subsequent said passage past  
5 one another in said first direction such that said shoulder  
6 element and said restrictor panel abut one another upon movement  
7 towards one another in a second direction generally opposite  
8 said first direction.

9 11. A single use lancet as recited in claim 9 wherein said  
shoulder element comprises a biased finger extending from said  
lancet, and said restrictor panel comprises a protruding element  
protruding from said housing.

12. A single use lancet as recited in claim 11 wherein  
said protruding element includes a sloped configuration which  
downwardly slopes away from said piercing tip of said lancet so  
as to facilitate passage thereof past said biased finger upon  
said lancet moving in a first direction towards said access  
opening.

19 13. A single use lancet as recited in claim 12 wherein  
20 said biased finger comprises an actuation button structured to  
21 release said lancet from said cocked orientation.

22 14. A single use lancet as recited in claim 1 further  
23 comprising a guide assembly operatively disposed between said  
24 lancet and said housing and structured to guide a substantially  
25 linear movement of said lancet through said housing.

1           15. A single use lancet as recited in claim 14 wherein  
2 said guide assembly comprises at least one guide ridge  
3 protruding from said body of said lancet, and at least one  
4 corresponding guide track structured to movably receive said  
5 guide ridge therein and extending at least partially along a  
6 length of said open interior of said housing.

7           16. A single use lancet as recited in claim 1 further  
8 comprising a protective cover structured to at least partially  
9 and removably cover said piercing tip of said lancet at least  
prior to movement of said lancet into said cocked orientation.

17. A single use lancet as recited in claim 16 wherein  
said protective cover is structured to protrude from said access  
opening of said housing and is structured to be pushed by a user  
so as to position said lancet into said cocked orientation.

18. A single use lancet device comprising:  
a housing, said housing including an at least partially  
open interior and an access opening defined therein;  
a lancet, said lancet including a body and a piercing tip;  
said lancet disposed in said open interior of said housing  
and structured to move at least between a cocked orientation and  
a piercing orientation;

a driving assembly structured to move said lancet at least  
temporarily into said piercing orientation;

a shoulder element and a restrictor panel operatively  
associated with said lancet and said housing, said shoulder

1 element structured to pass over said restrictor panel upon said  
2 lancet moving from said cocked orientation to said piercing  
3 orientation, and to abut said restrictor panel upon attempted  
4 movement of said lancet into said cocked orientation after  
5 movement into said piercing orientation so as to substantially  
6 prevent said lancet from moving into said cocked orientation  
7 after said lancet has moved at least temporarily into said  
8 piercing orientation; and

9 an actuation button structured to at least temporarily  
protrude from said housing when said lancet is disposed in said  
cocked orientation so as to maintain said lancet in said cocked  
orientation.

19. A single use lancet as recited in claim 18 wherein  
said shoulder element comprises said actuation button.

20. A single use lancet as recited in claim 18 wherein  
said shoulder element extends from said lancet and said  
restrictor panel is at least partially secured to said housing.

21. A single use lancet as recited in claim 18 further  
comprising a protective cover structured to at least partially  
and removably cover said piercing tip of said lancet at least  
prior to movement of said lancet into said cocked orientation.

22. A single use lancet as recited in claim 21 wherein  
said protective cover is structured to protrude from said access  
opening of said housing and is structured to be pushed by a user  
so as to position said lancet into said cocked orientation.

1           23. A single use lancet as recited in claim 18 wherein  
2 said shoulder element comprises a biased finger extending from  
3 said lancet generally towards said piercing tip of said lancet,  
4 and said restrictor panel comprises a protruding element  
5 disposed in said housing.

6           24. A single use lancet as recited in claim 23 wherein  
7 said protruding element includes a sloped configuration which  
8 downwardly slopes away from said piercing tip of said lancet so  
9 as to facilitate passage thereof past said biased finger upon  
10 said lancet moving in a first direction towards said access  
opening.

25. A single use lancet as recited in claim 18 further  
comprising at least one guide ridge protruding from said body of  
said lancet, and at least one corresponding guide track  
structured to movably receive said guide ridge therein and  
extending at least partially along a length of said open  
interior of said housing so as to guide substantially linear  
movement of said lancet within said housing.